

Amendments to the Claims

- 1) (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A structured surfactant composition capable of suspending solids which comprises surfactant, water and, if required, electrolyte in relative proportions adapted to form a flocculated, dispersed lamellar and/or spherulitic structured surfactant system, and, in addition, a sufficient amount of a deflocculant to inhibit the flocculation of said system characterised in that said composition comprises an effective amount of an auxiliary stabiliser which is a substantially non-cross linked, water-soluble co-polymer having a hydrophilic backbone and sufficient C₂-6 hydrophobic organic side chains to permit entanglement of the polymer chain.
- 2) (ORIGINAL) A composition according to claim 1 wherein said auxiliary stabiliser is a co-polymer of an unsaturated carboxylic or dicarboxylic acid having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms and a C₁ to 5 alkyl ester of such an acid.
- 3) (ORIGINAL) A composition according to claim 2 wherein said acid is acrylic acid.
- 4) (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition according claim 2 wherein said ester is an ethyl, propyl, or butyl ester of said acid.

- 5) (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition according to claim 2 wherein the ratio of said acid to said ester is from 0.01 to 10.

6) (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition according to claim 1 wherein said auxiliary stabiliser is present in a amount of from 0.05 to 5% by weight of the composition.

7) (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition according to claim 1 which additionally contains from 0.01 to 10% by weight of the composition of a clay.

8) (ORIGINAL) A composition according to claim 7 wherein said clay is a water dispersible synthetic layer silicate.

9) (ORIGINAL) An auxiliary stabiliser for deflocculated structured surfactants which comprised from 10 to 90% by weight of a co-polymer having a hydrophilic backbone and C₂ to a₆ hydrophobic side chains, with from 90 to 10% by weight of a natural or synthetic clay.

10) (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A composition according to claim 3 wherein said ester is an ethyl, propyl, or butyl ester of said acid.

11) (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A composition according to claim 3 wherein the ratio of said acid to said ester is from 0.01 to 10.

12) (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A composition according to claim 4 wherein the ratio of said acid to said ester is from 0.01 to 10.

13) (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A composition according to claim 2 wherein said auxiliary stabiliser is present in an amount of from 0.05 to 5% by weight of the composition.

14) (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A composition according to claim 3 wherein said auxiliary stabiliser is present in an amount of from 0.05 to 5% by weight of the composition.

15) (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A composition according to claim 4 wherein said auxiliary stabiliser is present in an amount of from 0.05 to 5% by weight of the composition.

16) (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A composition according to claim 5 wherein said auxiliary stabiliser is present in an amount of from 0.05 to 5% by weight of the composition.

17) (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A composition according to claim 2 which additionally contains from 0.01% to 10% by weight of the composition of a clay.

18) (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A composition according to claim 3 which additionally contains from 0.01% to 10% by weight of the composition of a clay.

19) (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A composition according to claim 4 which additionally contains from 0.01% to 10% by weight of the composition of a clay.

20) (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A composition according to claim 5 which additionally contains from 0.01% to 10% by weight of the composition of a clay.
